



CAPT. RICHARD J. STEPHENSON

4310 Randolph Street
San Diego, California 92103

(619) 296-4717

February 3, 2012

Dear Mr. Helvey;

At one time San Diego was the tuna capitol of the world with five canneries, over 150 large tuna seiners, and the related service businesses that together employed over 10,000 people. This has all disappeared, gone forever and will never be rebuilt. We are left with a small but dedicated albacore fleet, mostly owned and operated by second and third generation fishermen.

This fisheries is being threatened by the decisions of National Marine Fisheries, which is part of NOAA. Past decisions have led to an imbalance where the number of Canadian albacore boats in our water far outnumber the number of U.S. albacore boats fishing in Canada. To give you an idea of how much the Canadians value the right to fish in our waters, they pay up to \$200,000 for a license to take our fish.

The American albacore tuna fishermen have one main area to fish and that is within the U.S. 200 mile limit off California, Oregon, and Washington. I feel strongly that these U.S. waters should be strictly for our U.S. fishing boats and our U.S. fishermen.

There will be meeting in March of this year to review the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty. As a concerned citizen and fisherman, I would like to see a change in this treaty to restrict the U.S. waters and resources for the benefit of our U.S. fisheries.

I do not want to see this remaining tuna fleet endangered. Please help in the effort to change or eliminate this existing treaty.

Sincerely,

Capt. Richard Stephenson